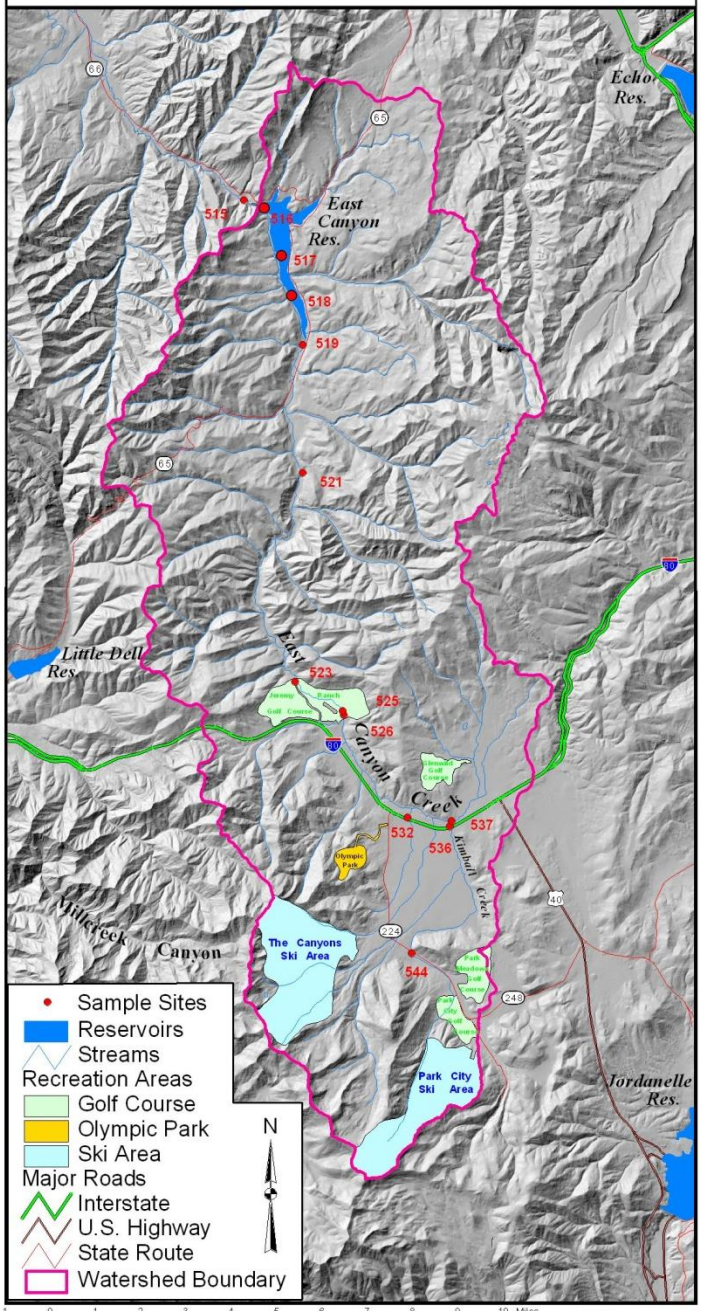
2011 Utah Water Quality Conference

East Canyon Outreach and Social Marketing Efforts

By
Lars Christensen
Upper Weber Watershed
Coordinator

Upper East Canyon Watershed



- Education and outreach efforts began in 2006-2007 with the development of the "Scoop the Poop" campaign.
- 2010 the new "Stormwater" campaign began.


Pick Up After Your Pet
Degradable Pick-Up Mitt


SCOOP IT
IT'S WHAT BEST FRIENDS DO.
WHEN THEY POOP...YOU SCOOP, CARRY AND DISPOSE
Pick Up After Your Pet

Scoop the Poop

- Mutt Mitts stations
- Signs
- Poop bags
- Volunteer groups trail clean up
- Radio, Newspaper, Posters
- Web site

Stormwater Add

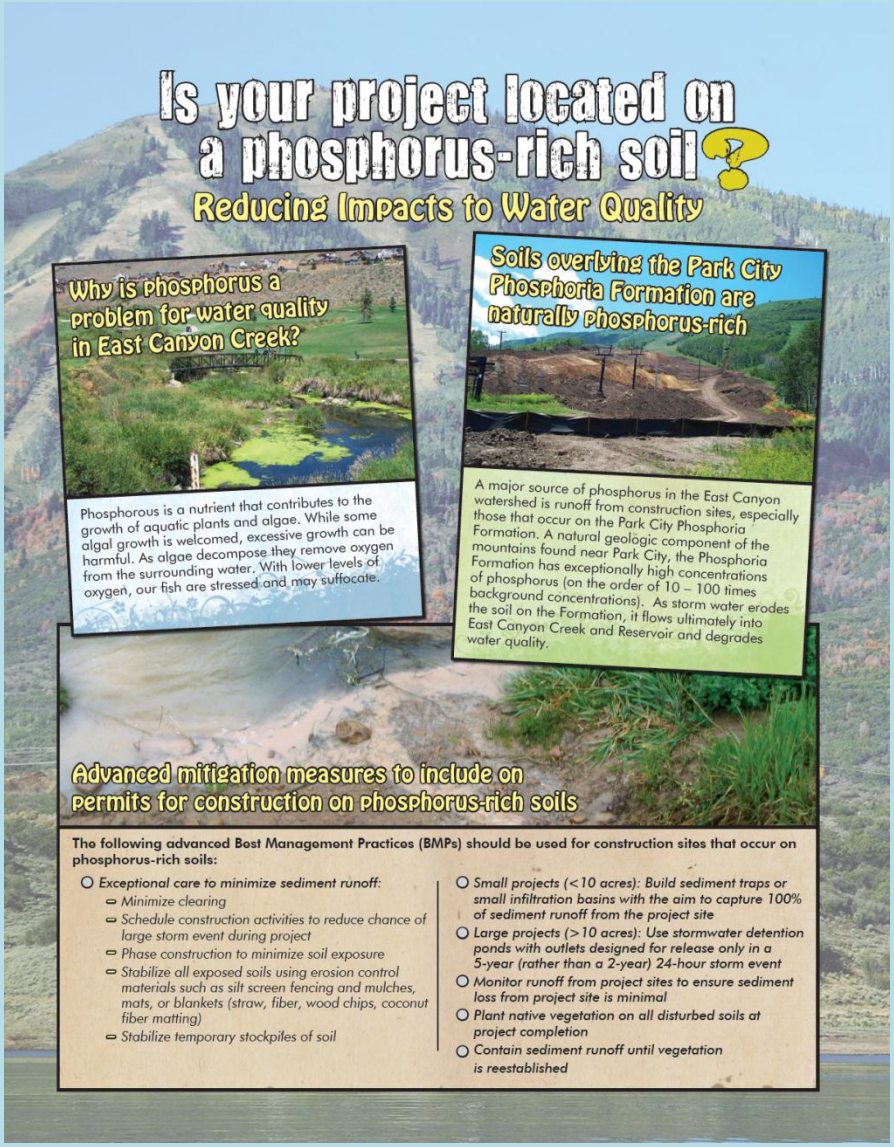
EnviroScape NPS Watershed Model

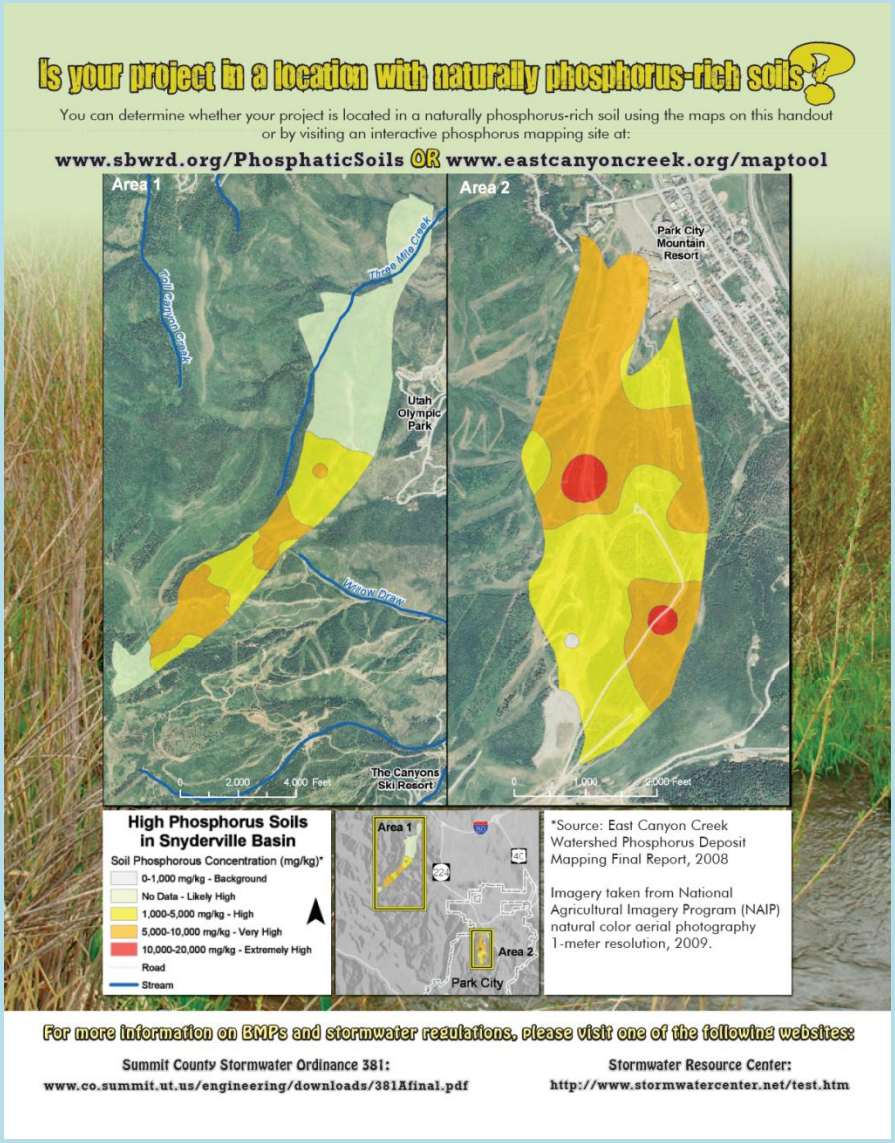
TMDL?


East Canyon Creek Needs Your Help!
Why is East Canyon Creek important to our community?
Designated as a cold water fishery by the Utah Division of Water Quality, East Canyon creek is valued for the habitat it provides to local wildlife (e.g., moose, elk, and fish species), its aesthetic qualities, and recreational opportunities.
What is wrong with our creek?
Although aquatic plants are a natural part of our streams, overgrowth can cause problems. Aquatic plants (macrophytes) produce oxygen during the day (through photosynthesis), but they use oxygen from the water at night (for respiration). This reduction in oxygen means that fish, especially young ones, can't breathe very well at night! The water quality plan for East Canyon Creek aims to improve dissolved oxygen by reducing the growth of aquatic plants.
What does our creek need?
Less sediment and pollution:
The creek's aquatic plants are rooted in fine sediment, which has washed into the creek from eroding stream banks and from activities, like construction, in the watershed. While sediment is the largest pollutant to the creek, lawn and garden fertilizer, dog waste, and other substances have further decreased water quality.
More shade and fish habitat:
Years ago, willows grew along the creek. However, reduced stream flow, livestock grazing, herbicide use, and intentional clearing have all contributed to the loss of the willows. Without the shade provided by the willows, the creek's aquatic plants thrive in sunlight. Planting trees along the creek will provide shade to discourage nuisance aquatic plant growth and improve fish habitat.
More water in the summer:
The creek has very low flow during the summer months due to water withdrawals. The low water levels in East Canyon Creek, combined with excessive exposure caused by a lack of shade along the creek, have further fueled the growth of aquatic plants. In addition, low flows contribute to warmer water that is also stressful to fish. A minimum flow needs to be maintained in the creek during the summer.


What can you do to help the creek?
Many efforts are currently underway in the watershed to improve water quality. The local water reclamation district has upgraded its wastewater treatment facilities. Park City and Summit County are taking steps to reduce pollution from storm water including better enforcement of pollution discharges from active construction sites. Stream restoration projects funded by state and federal programs are ongoing in the watershed and include plantings, bank stabilization, livestock exclusion, and creation of pools as fish refuges.
Plant Trees
Trees help to shade the creek, which reduces temperature and macrophyte growth. Stream restoration projects involving tree planting are already underway at several locations along the stream.
Before
After
Stabilize Stream Banks
Stabilizing eroding banks reduces fine sediments thereby reducing aquatic plant growth and improving fish habitat. Bank stabilization treatments have been installed on several sections of East Canyon Creek.
Before
After
Reduce Pollution:
Keep livestock away from the creek.
Reduce pollution runoff from your property by minimizing fertilizers and pesticides.
Ask your lawn care provider to test your soils and only apply fertilizer where and when it is needed.
Sweep excess fertilizers and grass clippings off hard surfaces (sidewalks and driveways) before a storm.
Slow the flow of water from your property by diverting water to low lying areas.
Encourage local contractors to eliminate runoff from construction sites and follow water quality protection measures required by City and County regulations.
Donate Water Rights:
You can donate water rights to protect the fishery! Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District, in partnership with the East Canyon Watershed Committee, is actively pursuing senior water rights to establish a protected baseflow in the creek.
Get involved!
Attend the next East Canyon Watershed Committee meeting.
www.eastcanyoncreek.org
For help with any of these actions, contact your watershed coordinator, Lars Christensen.
christensen.lars@yahoo.com

Phosphorus Flyer





Storm Water

- Radio, Newspaper, Posters
- Simplified TMDL
- Phosphorus flyer
- Stormwater model
- Promotional Items
- Web site

East Canyon Watershed Committee

http://eastcanyoncreek.org/